

Rules for Brainstorming KWHL Charts and Researching PBL Tasks

- 1) **Keep an open mind about ideas and statements** offered by team members. It is easy to begin to judge validity of statements made by others, but during the beginnings of PBLs and KWHL dialogue in groups it is best to wait until discussions turn into questions about research before ideas are cast aside. When those ideas are cast aside, it should be done in a way that will allow you to return to that idea if the research turns to results that need a second investigation. The power of a group with diverse ideas and backgrounds needs to be respected and not pre-judged or judged.
- 2) **Nothing is out of the question** when starting to list what is known or needed to be researched. Offer to accept statements that seem to be off-based, crazy, and / or out of the ordinary. Usually when someone says something while brainstorming an idea, he/she has a reason to offer it. The group, functioning properly, will edit, revise, rethink and discuss items later, which usually results in valid arguments for the statement that was thought to be crazy at the outset.
- 3) **"The more the merrier"** should be a group theme from the outset of brainstorming. There will be plenty of time to weed out things that are not needed, but at the beginning of the PBL/KWHL discussion, the number of items offered allows for more inquiry or better questions for research.
- 4) **Be a good citizen and a courteous one** when considering others' opinions and statements. You may just need support for your idea when it comes to putting together a finished product. Frontloading trust and support can go a long way towards a team atmosphere when it's needed most. Early in the process, be supportive.
- 5) **Everyone in the group is equal** and deserves consideration when discussing ideas. Give time to each person in the discussion to make a point. Collaborate with each other knowing that the person working with you is partnering in a joint effort. Your understanding of the equal worth of individuals usually leads to a better product.